

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 209

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4080

PASS DR DANIEL WHITESIDE, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF
MANPOWER, HRA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TPHY OSCI TBIO IN
SUBJECT: DHEW/PHS/HRA/SFCP-MULTIPURPOSE WORKERS
SCHEME IN PUNJAB AND GOI NATIONAL PLAN
FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

REF: 77 STATE 29600

1. SCIATT HAS MADE A NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS TO GO OVER REFTEL WITH THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES, BUT TOP-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES AND THE RESULTANT BUSY SCHEDULE OF THE NEW PEOPLE HAS FORCED THEM TO CANCEL A SUCCESSION OF APPOINTMENTS WITH US. AS A RESULT OUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS DR. WHITESIDE'S INTEREST IN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CAME DURING A MEETING BETWEEN SCIATT AND THE RECENTLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES, DR. BALU SANKARAN, ON MARCH 13. SANKARAN SAID THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY DR. WHITESIDE OR ANOTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUREAU OF HEALTH MANPOWER AND THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SHOW THEM RURAL HEALTH AND TRAINING FACILITIES AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH.

2. AS DR. WHITESIDE MAY BE AWARE, THERE IS A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT NOW UNDERWAY IN WHICH NCHS AND THE INDIAN
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COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH ARE SUPPORTING A PILOT PROJECT USING SCHOOL TEACHERS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DELIVERY. THE PROJECT IS TAKING PLACE AT THREE CENTERS -- ONE NEAR DELHI, ONE AT WARDHA IN CENTRAL INDIA AND ONE AT GANDHIGRAM IN THE SOUTH. IN ADDITION, ICMR HAS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS ASKED US TO APPROACH NCHS TO FIND OUT IF ANY OF THE US AGENCIES WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT A PROJECT USING SYSTEMS TECHNIQUES TO EVALUATE THE BEST APPROACH

TO THREE BASIC INDIAN HEALTH PROBLEMS, ONE OF WHICH
IS PRIMARY HEALTH CARE. (THE OTHER TWO ARE TUBERCULOSIS AND
LEPROSY CONTROL). COPIES OF THE ICMR PROPOSAL
HAVE ALREADY BEEN POUCHED TO DR. WHITESIDE AND TO DR. JAMES
BAIRD OF NCHS. SUGGEST THAT DR. WHITESIDE DISCUSS THE STATE OF
OUR RESEARCH EFFORTS ON RURAL HEALTH DELIVERY WITH DR.
BAIRD AND FORMULATE HIS OWN RESEARCH INTERESTS
ACCORDINGLY.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT A PROGRAM OF WEEK OR TEN DAYS WOULD
SUFFICE TO GIVE DR. WHITESIDE AN IDEA OF WHAT IS GOING ON
IN THIS FIELD IN INDIA AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH
THE KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED. PLEASE ADVISE THE PROPOSED
DATES OF HIS VISIT SO THAT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT SCHEDULE
CAN BE WORKED OUT.
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